

Senate Bill 632

By: Senator Unterman of the 45th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 5 of Title 19 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 divorce, so as to require the plaintiff to provide a copy of the final decree to the defendant  
3 if the defendant was not present when the final decree was entered; to provide that all  
4 documents that are to be exchanged between the parties pursuant to a divorce decree shall  
5 be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested; to provide for the filing of such receipts;  
6 to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to provide for applicability;  
7 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Chapter 5 of Title 19 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to divorce, is  
11 amended by adding a new Code Section 19-5-18 to read as follows:

12 "19-5-18.

13 (a) When the defendant is not present when a final judgment and divorce decree is entered,  
14 the plaintiff shall within five days after the entry of such final judgment and decree mail  
15 a copy of such final judgment and decree to the defendant by certified mail, return receipt  
16 requested. Upon receiving the return receipt, the plaintiff shall file the return receipt with  
17 the court.

18 (b) When a final judgment and decree requires that the parties provide each other with  
19 documents, such documents shall be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested. Upon  
20 receiving the return receipt, the party sending the document shall file the return receipt with  
21 the court."

22 **SECTION 2.**

23 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2006, and shall apply to all final judgments and  
24 decrees of divorce entered on and after such date.

- 1 **SECTION 3.**
- 2 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.